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Open Archives from an Engineering Author's Perspective

Professor Joe McGeehan

Director, Centre for Communications Research, University of Bristol

Managing Director, Telecommunications Research Laboratory,

Toshiba Research Europe Ltd



Bristol University and Open Archiving

Bristol University Repository of Scholarly Eprints (ROSE)

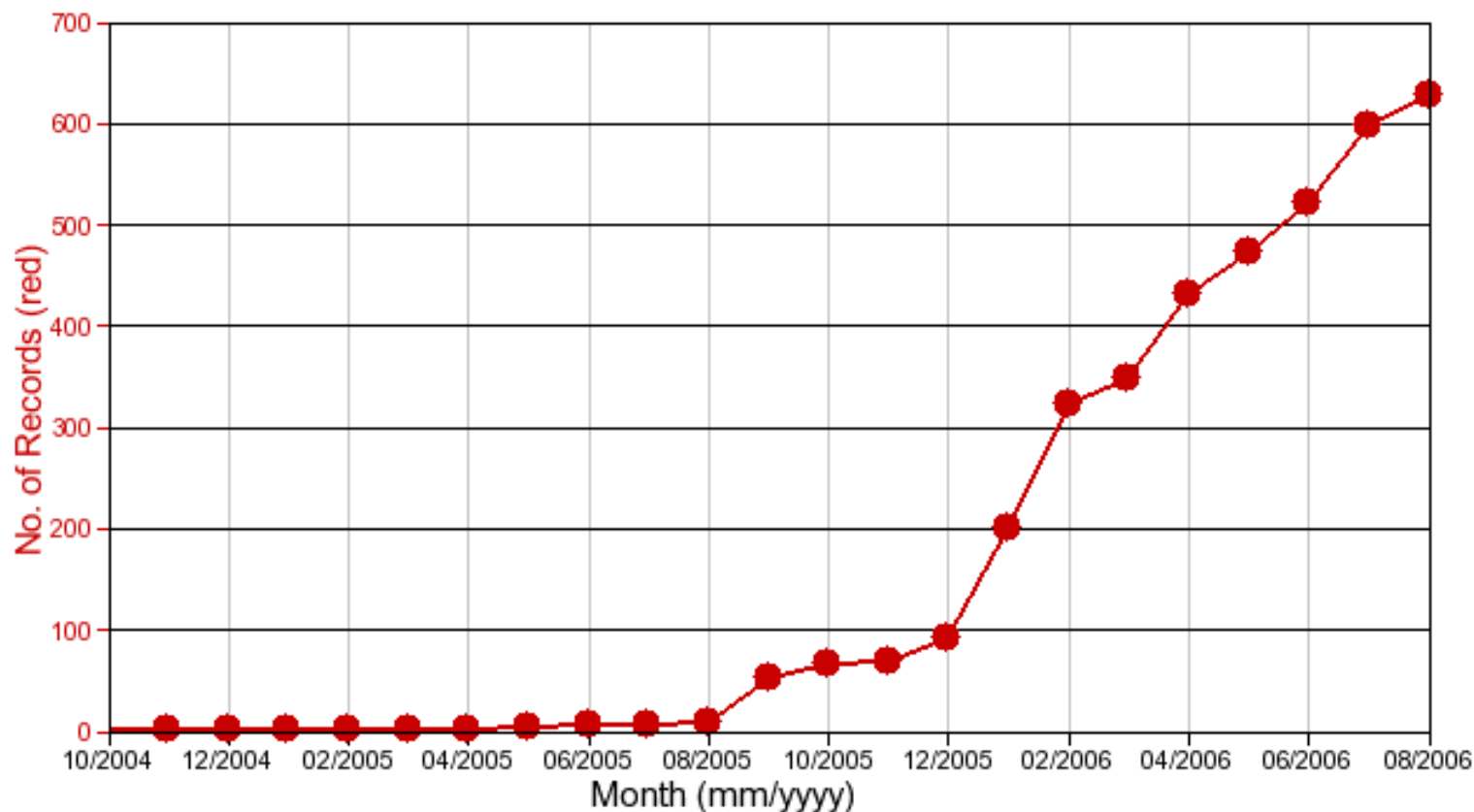


- Development work began 2004
- University of Bristol Information Services together with the Centre for Communications Research piloted scheme at University of Bristol
- Open Repository for Wireless Group of CCR now contains over 380 records
- Other groups within the University are now becoming involved

Archiving trends

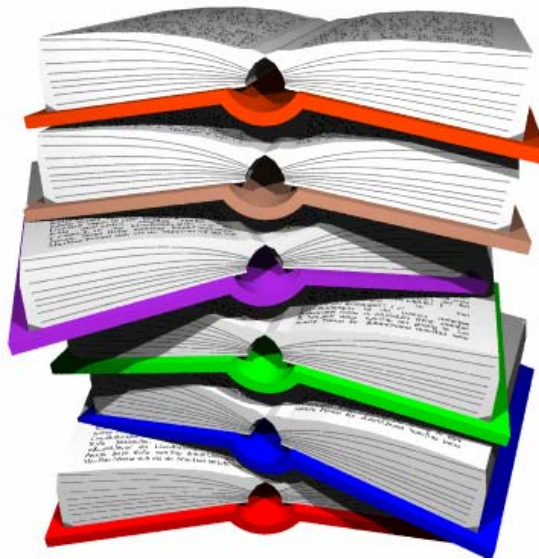
Bristol Repository of Scholarly Eprints (ROSE)

Generated by <http://archives.eprints.org/>



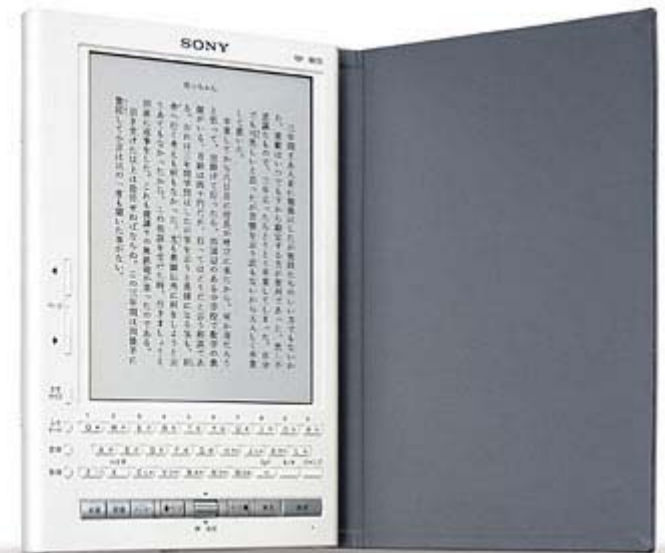
How is scholarly communication changing?

- Moving from an age of print media to a digital access age
- Publishers' role remains central
 - Providing peer review, for example



Emerging technologies for the digital age

- eBooks are slowly emerging
- Not easy to replace paper
- Screens
 - Traditional screens cannot compete for clarity of contrast
- Usage model
 - How can you mimic flipping between pages?



Benefits of open archiving

- Funding bodies (e.g. EPSRC, EU) are strongly committed to research funded by public money being placed in open archive to maximise access
- Publicise academic work to wider audience than attend conferences
- Platform for making research documents accessible
 - Copies of lectures or keynote addresses
 - Posters and presentations accompanying conference papers
 - Outputs of EU grants

Benefits of open archiving (cont.)

- Research outputs made accessible to all – without the need of a costly licence
- Papers appear on Internet search engines, raising the profile and research impact of the author and research institution worldwide
- Research outputs are available almost instantly
- Open Archives provide safe and reliable long-term storage and retrieval mechanisms for research output

Open issues

- UK Engineering Council has indicated that it is only “strongly committed” to outputs from work financed by them to be placed in Open Archives
- Inconsistency from publishers on Open Archive policy
 - IET permits archiving of post-refereed papers, not copyrighted version
- Authors normally keep only copyrighted versions, making it difficult to include “historic papers” in cases when publishers do not allow this format to be used
- Time consuming in the initial stages to populate the archive with the back catalogue, but outweighed by the long-term benefits

Summary

- Open Archives need to be promoted and developed by the whole community
- Pressure needs to be placed on publishers to permit the placing of papers in Open Archives
- Open Archives are the way to maximise publicity on research outputs in the 'digital age'